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Mike McCollum

Firefighters hose down smoldering area after bringing fire under control.

Fire threatens home, but jet skis are main loss

Three jet skis were destroyed by a fire that burned through the storage area of a Watsonville-area home yesterday, but the blaze was controlled before it could do further damage to the wood-frame house.

About 20 firefighters from the

Salsipuedes and Freedom fire stations responded at 7:15 p.m. to neighbors' reports of smoke billowing from the back of 108 Dogwood Drive, a spokesman for the Salsipuedes Fire District said.

Firefighters managed to extin-

guish the burning jet skis — valued at about \$3,000 to \$5,000 each — before their gas tanks exploded. The fire also spared several filled propane tanks located in the same storage area under the two-story house, the spokesman said.

The back windows of the house were just starting to break from the heat when firefighters controlled the blaze at about 7:25 p.m.

Total damage was estimated at \$30,000. The home belongs to Alex Arellano.